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Oct 1883

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

QUARTERLY SESSION OF D. A. No. 30,

HELD AT ~~LIBRARY~~

WADMAN HALL, ~~BOSTON~~ MASS.,

OCTOBER ~~15, 1883~~

The District Assembly was called to order at 10 o'clock A.M.
by the D.M.W., Albert A. Carlton.

Appointments were made as follows:—

PICKETT, of Brockton, D.R.S. *pro. tem.*

O'DONNELL, of Spencer, D.I. *pro. tem.*

MOORE, of No. Andover, D.I.E. *pro. tem.*

DICKERMAN, of Brockton, D.V.S. *pro. tem.*

MARKS, of Newton, D.C.E. *pro. tem.*

Committee on Credentials:—

MARTIN THAYER, of Brockton; JOHN HOWES, D.W.F.; JOHN C
KAPPLES, of Quincy.

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In the absence of the D.R.S., the reading of the minutes of last session was postponed.

The following delegates who had previously been present, reported:—

O'Donnell,	"	"	1140.	Welch,	"	"	2889.
Potvin,	"	"	2465.	Otiginon,	"	"	2889.
Cote,	"	"	2465.	Flint,	"	"	2766.
St. Jaques,	"	"	2465.	Blackmer,	"	"	2446.
Marks,	"	"	2362.	Quinn,	"	"	2797.
Moore,	"	"	2553.	Edwards,	"	"	2340.
Flynn,	"	"	Lynn	Kapples,	"	"	1431.
McCarty,	"	"	Lynn	Felch,	"	"	2619.
McMahan,	"	"	785.	McDermott,	"	"	2619.
Bennett,	"	"	785.	Brown,	"	"	2596.
Quinn,	"	"	785.	Pickett,	"	"	2495.
Jones,	"	"	2718.	Dickerman,	"	"	2495.
Nagle,	"	"	2808.	Thayer,	"	"	2495.
Tiernan,	"	"	2808.	Foster,	"	"	2540.
Tower,	"	"	750.	Lyons,	"	"	2322.
Brown,	"	"	Salem	Nelson,	"	"	2229.
Fultz,	"	"	2340.	Lomasney,	"	"	715.
Poole,	"	"	2340.	Phinney,	"	"	715.
Werner,	"	"	Roxb'y	Paton,	"	"	500.
Dolan,	"	"	2889.	McDonald,	"	"	845.
Parker,	"	"	2827.	Poole,	"	"	2142.
Lyons,	"	"	Peab'y				
Carlton,				Lamphier,			Howes.

The Committee on Credentials reported twenty-nine delegates present from twenty-nine Local Assemblies.

The report was accepted, and the delegates were admitted and instructed.

The D.M.W. read his Quarterly Report:—

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MASTER WORKMAN.

BOSTON, October 15, 1883.

Members of D.A. 30, K. of L.:—

In accordance with established rules it becomes my duty to submit to you at this time my report of the work performed during the quarter just ended, and the condition of our District generally.

At the time of our last quarterly session our attention was called to the strike of the Telegraphers, then just inaugurated. Soon after our adjournment I was requested by the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Telegrapher's Assembly, located in Boston, to aid them by making known their need of funds and if possible start a movement toward raising the same. I at once issued an appeal to the Locals in our District and the response was very gratifying. It was my desire to ascertain the amount so contributed, and, I certainly expected so to do, and it should have been done, in justice to you who made so prompt a response, but the unfortunate ending of that strike left matters in such a condition, that the officers of that Assembly have failed to respond to any of my communications, therefore all I can offer you at this time is my personal thanks for so willingly, nobly and promptly, responding to the call I assumed to issue. A poor return for so much, but all there is for me to offer. And while we may feel chagrined at the surrender, especially when we were so willing to stand by them, yet we remember that our motives were right and we, at least, were willing to make sacrifices in behalf of principles we believe right, and should opportunity offer, I firmly believe you would be as ready and as willing again to lend your efforts in behalf of the oppressed against the oppressor. That failure, among other things, furnishes another evidence of the great need of proper education among the toilers of our land.

At our April meeting I deemed it my duty to urge upon you the great need of raising, by special assessment, a fund, that we might more rapidly push the work of organization. In accordance with the suggestion you decided to make a special levy that our work might thus receive the attention needed. This money was paid in July and thus became available after our last meeting.

Vigorous measures were at once adopted that as much as possible might be accomplished with the means at my disposal.

The account of expenditures and receipts is as follows:—

EXPENDITURES.

For time engaged.....	\$35.00
“ railroad fares.....	36.36
“ postage and stationery.....	12.75
“ hotels and meals.....	8.65
Total.....	<u>\$93.06</u>

RECEIPTS.

From Sherman Cumming, D.F.S., acting Treasurer.....	\$66.60
From new Locals.....	26.00
Total.....	<u>\$92.60</u>
Balance on hand.....	.46

This money carried us through the entire month of August and the influence of the labors performed during that time is still felt, and the work still going on. While this work was progressing, Bro. George Shaubert, D.M.W. of D.A. 63, located at Rochester, N. Y., paid us a visit and assisted in the work of organization.

It was my privilege to address a body of delegates from eleven local branches of the tanners and curriers in October, and at that meeting it was voted that said delegates recommend their various local bodies to form Assemblies. Three of them have done so and the rest will soon follow.

Assemblies have been established as follows:— viz: at Haverhill, one; at Lowell, one; at Taunton, one; Marblehead two, one of these entirely of ladies; at Groveland, one; at Hudson, one; at Salem, two; at Beverly, one; at Brookfield, one; at Peabody, one; at Boston, two; at Lynn, one; total, 15.

At our last meeting we were able to report total number of Assemblies in our District 30; to-day we are able to report our total number 45.

There are good prospects for organizing in Fitchburg, Marlboro', Everett, Wakefield, Bradford, Topsfield, Ashland, Lunenburg, Mansfield, Ipswich, Malden, besides the remaining tanners and curriers, who alone will add eight to our number. There are also a large number of towns where there has been an attempt made, but which will require considerable work before the proper spirit is aroused. The brothers who have taken part in this work are Bros. Shaubert, Howes, Nelson, Foster and the D.M.W. I trust that no brother holding an Organizer's Commission will permit the present quarter to pass by without something to show for his commission.

I have found time to visit as follows:—

My first visit was to L.A. 750 at Hopkinton, and I was well pleased both at the condition of the Assembly and at the earnestness displayed by the members in their individual capacity.

My next visits were especially to the three organized by the brother from Rochester.

The first A. at Salem I found in good trim. The second A. at Marblehead, the condition not so good, but after a conference the brothers determined to go to work in earnest. The third A. in Beverly gives me some uneasiness and needs especial attention. Something must be done in order to save that Local. The only thing suggesting itself to me at this time is this, to have this D.A. arrange a public meeting in that town, provide speakers, and arouse an interest among workingmen, and from that enable the Assembly to start anew. This matter is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Another A needs attention, viz: 2293, Charlestown, but as efforts both by the brothers of that A. and ourselves have not been successful in arranging a conference, I have nothing at this time to suggest in that matter.

We must not forget that we have now an Assembly composed entirely of women, and I trust the day is near at hand when many more will be added to our number.

There are many things which I might mention, but time at our disposal will not admit of their receiving the attention necessary, therefore I refrain.

Permit me to congratulate you upon the auspicious circumstances under which we meet. Never in our history have we presented the appearance we do now; never has the outlook for the future been so bright and full of promise, and it only remains for us to do our duty so well that every expectation may be realized to the fullest extent. Neglect no opportunity to forward the work and strengthen the hands of those to whom you have entrusted the performance of your official work.

Realizing that ours is a work for all time let it be conceived in wisdom, enacted in harmony, and executed so faithfully that it shall redound to the glory of those who sent us here and the good of all mankind.

Fraternally submitted,

A. A. CARLTON, *D.M.W.*

The report as read was accepted and adopted.

The roll of Local Assemblies was called:—

L.A. 2340 reported that progress and growth had been made, and that the members had started a weekly paper in the interests of labor; also that a lady had applied for admittance.

The L.A. for Salem reported that with the assistance of the

Laster's Protective Union, a public meeting was to be held to spread before the public a knowledge of the objects of this Order.

L.A. 2495 wanted the assistance of the D.A. in the matter of a public meeting to instruct the people as to the benefits to be derived from the Order.

L.A. 2898 reported good progress.

L.A. 2766 reported its growth as slow.

L.A. 2446 reported that its members were to start a Coöperative Store on the first of January, and that they had sent \$100 to the telegraphers. Also that members had agreed not to purchase any cigars or tobacco manufactured by Kimball & Co., or to smoke any cigars without the Union label on the box.

L.A. 2465 reported considerable trouble in securing full attendance, and that the following by-law had been adopted :—

All members not being present once a month shall be fined ten cents apiece.

The D. Stat. had no written report, as he had been sick and was therefore unable to fully attend to his duties. He made a verbal report of the receipt of very few reports from Local Assemblies.

The Committee on Coöperation reported that they had been unable to discover any benefit in the coöperative purchase of coal, unless it could be gone into on a very large scale, owing to the combinations which had control of the business.

At 11.30 o'clock the D.A. adjourned one hour for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The D.A. was called to order at 1.30 o'clock by the D.M.W.

Several new members having arrived, they were admitted and instructed. The records of the session held July 16 were read and approved.

Frank K. Foster, Delegate to the General Assembly, presented a report of the doings of the G.A. Session held at Cincinnati, which was adopted.

A motion to appoint a committee to further consider the matter of coöperative purchase of coal was defeated.

It was voted that the D.M.W. coöperate with the brothers in Brockton, Beverley, Newton and Weymouth, in the matter of re-organization.

A motion that this D.A. meet semi-annually instead of quarterly, as at present, was laid on the table.

Bro. Lomasney, of Lynn, read a series of resolutions which were postponed to hear a report from the Committee on Political Action, which was read by Bro. Phinney.

Bro. Foster moved that the Brother from Stoneham be granted three minutes for discussion. Carried.

The following bills were presented, accepted and approved, and on motion were ordered to be paid. Delegates to G.A., \$172. W. C. Lamphier, R.S., salary and postage, \$12.15.

Moved that the R.S. be authorized to send to each L.A. two copies of the Records of Proceedings of this Session of the D.A.

There being no further business the D.A. closed in the usual manner.

W. C. LAMPHIER, *D.R.S.*

Reports given at the Session of July 16 by the District Master Workman and the District Statistician.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MASTER WORKMAN.

Delegates and Members of D.A. 30 :—

I have the honor to submit the following as my report for the second quarter of the present term.

It has been my privilege to visit Assemblies 2015 at Lawrence, 2995 at Brockton, 2332 at Holyoke.

The D.W.F. has visited 2462 at Spencer.

While a great deal of satisfaction is felt at the good condition of each one visited, and we are able to report them working in a creditable manner, yet the conviction grows stronger that all our Locals should be visited as often as the treasury will permit, from the fact that these visits not only afford a great deal of encouragement to members, but that a great amount of instruction and advice is needed by all our Assemblies.

I desire to express my acknowledgements to brothers in each case for kind attentions, and an earnest desire to make the stay in each locality agreeable and comfortable, and the treasury at this D.A. will not be called upon to defray hotel bills for the quarter just ended.

This work will be continued the coming quarter unless otherwise ordered by this D.A.

The work of organization has proceeded since our last meeting as follows :—

One new local at Worcester, organized by D.W.F. Bro. Howes ; one at Lynn, and one at Somerville by the D.M.W., and one at Springfield by Bro. P. G. Powers ; making a total in our district of thirty, and several more in prospect.

Last year between January 1 and July 1 we succeeded in organizing one A. ; for the same period this year we have organized

eight, and while some good work was performed during the latter part of last year, I am confident we can increase in the same comparative degree in the six months to come, if all our Locals devote a fair amount of time to the propagation of the Order, each in their own vicinity, the work of this office is not liable to decrease while the members of our Order in this District are possessed of their present inquiring turn of mind, the correspondence occupying a large portion of my time; and while upon this subject permit me to mention this matter that all communications seeking information or advice upon points of law should be sent directly to the D.M.W., and thus save passing through the hands of the Secretary.

I desire to say to delegates that it would be of advantage to your Assemblies and to this D.A. if you manifested a little more interest in preparing and forwarding reports and moneys due. A little inquiry at the proper time will remind some officers who may be delinquent or do not understand their duties or from neglect or oversight, and thus errors may be remedied.

I find that the coöperation idea is becoming deeply rooted in the minds of our members, and in some Locals taking definite shape. I believe any encouragement we can offer will be of benefit, and by practically engaging in this work we shall keep alive the interest among our members, and by drawing them to our meetings through their desire to derive some immediate benefit we shall be enabled to present them other and broader views, and thus serve to educate them, and exemplify one of the great principle of our Order.

It is gratifying to notice the promptness with which a large number of our Assemblies are presenting their quarterly reports, the details of which will be reported by the D.R.S.

Brothers, permit me to call attention to an important movement inaugurated this day and this hour by the members of District 45.

Ten o'clock this morning is the hour appointed by the telegraphers of the U.S. and Canada to demand an increase of compensation and other privileges.

They who thus boldly act are members of our Order, and as the day of our meeting is the same as theirs for an aggressive movement, and we recognizing it as one in which we are all deeply concerned, should not let it pass without words of encouragement to

those who to-day are in battle array. I trust this matter will receive the attention which, in my opinion, it deserves.

And now, brothers, having no desire to encroach upon the time of this D.A., I leave this report in your hands trusting it meets your approval, confident that the business will receive prompt and careful attention. I have felt at sessions of this D.A. that could all the members within our jurisdiction look in upon us, and into the faces of the men who assemble here each quarter, they would feel proud of our Order, and perfectly willing to trust their interests to this body of men. Fully realizing the importance of the duties devolving upon us, let our work and actions be such as to strengthen and develop our Order, that we may soon receive within our fold that great body in our State and Nation who produce the wealth and develop the resources, that they may receive information and light to prepare them for the great struggle that is sure to come.

I trust that the day is not far distant when the halls of legislation will resound with the voices of Knights of Labor, and that their votes and acts may shape the legislation, not only in Massachusetts, but all over our land. Let us perform our part here in our State in hastening the time when we can realize all this, and witness the social and political equality of all, the future of our children secure in all that is theirs by right, forever lifted above the clouds and gloom that now oppresses us and ours.

Agitate, Educate, Organize.

Fraternally and respectfully submitted,

A. A. CARLTON, *D.M.W.*

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT STATISTICIAN.

Master Workman and Brother Delegates of D.A. 30.

Your Statistician would report as follows:—

At the April session of the D.A. I was not present to report. Will report to-day that eleven Locals responded to the circular sent; several of them after the meeting of the Assembly; a few of these, however, were in the possession of delegates to be delivered

to me had I been present at the Worcester session. I will state in order as received; L.A. 2540, 2229, 1140, 1431, 2446, 2386, 2304, 2142, 2495, 2238, 2353. The number of Locals thus recognizing the importance of the work, indicated a gratifying gain over that of January, when but five responded: viz: 750, 785, 1140, 2229, 2238, and 2142, by a card of acknowledgement.

For the present session I report a still further gratifying increase in the interest manifested, as I have received already ten reports in recognition of the circular, against three only, received in April at a date sufficiently early to make them of avail in presenting a digest. Were received as follows, viz: 2495, 2540, 2229, 785, Springfield L.A., 2362, 2304, 2553, 2596, 2015. In examining the reports, the result of a few-month's discussion of the social and economic questions underlying our organization are seen, in the expression of the needs of the time, both in and out of the Order.

The work of education is progressing, I believe, in all of our Locals, coöperative movements in the initiatory stages, or with prospective success, have been entered upon by 785, 2142, 2229, 2386, 2553, and the Statistician of the Brockton Local, Brother Anglin, as ardent a worker, I trust, as we have in the District, writes that they expect to start a coöperative manufacturing movement there in the near future. One hundred such men as he appears to be would stir the old Bay State from the Berkshire hills to the sea in a twelve-month, as it never was in the past. Natick, Stoneham, Spencer, Milford, and other points, where the Sovereigns of Industry once showed the probability of success in the distributive part of coöperative work, will, if they have not already, speedily take hold of this part of our work. Several important suggestions have been presented; one from Brother Bailey of 785, who urges with great force the immediate need of active work in the Agricultural districts; that the good influence exerted through the organized labor of the manufacturing centres may not be counteracted by the conservatism of the proverbially slow farmer, and farm laborer class.

Brother Anglin, of 2495, dwells at considerable length on encouraging the organization of Assemblies of women. Both of these suggestions, it is to be hoped, will be debated to-day.

The query as to the influence our Order is exerting upon legislation, or home administration, has been encouragingly answered. Brother Bailey, whose reports are models of completeness, writes that 785 is to press a Labor campaign in three wards of the city, centreing their efforts, and intend to press the work with a vigor and force that will not admit of defeat. Several members of 2142 are holding official positions in the present city government, and if I mistake not, the Mayor of Lawrence is Brother Breen of 2015; 2229 elected a brother on the Board of Selectmen, and 2446 entered the lists, also, at the spring election, with an unlooked for success. The members of 2304 have watched their representatives narrowly, a certain Senator coming in for a share of merited criticism, as writes Brother McGarry of Milford. The brothers in Lawrence have been especially active for the weekly-payment bill, and it is to be hoped that in response to the circular sent, petitions were circulated by all the Locals. In Brockton, I learn all these legislative questions, with others of a social nature, yet in the border-land of actual statute-law, are discussed, including the Saturday half-holiday; 2142 has made a rapid stride towards wielding a powerful influence in the affairs of the city, a growth which is very gratifying to the Knights of Northern Essex. Brother Litchman's address there in the winter did a world of good. Some of the Locals express themselves more fully than others, on points directly bearing on the wage question, and the pecuniary condition of the workingmen, as is shown in reports from 1140 and 2353, both sent in April. Both were at length and in detail. From those and every other, I deduce the sad fact that the once independent worker of Massachusetts, owning the roof that sheltered him, and the walls that enclosed him around, is now a mere tenant at will, a slight *per cent.* only excepted. This Brother Tracy, of 2229, makes as a special point, that usury and monopoly are thus doing a deadly, satanic work.

But little response has been made to the inquiries as to the benefits the children of the workingmen derive from the advanced school, and here also Brother Tracy, of 2229, responds, by saying that this class rarely ever, as far as his information goes, derive the full benefit of the High Schools, for in the present condition of the ranks of the producer, the children are, at an early stage in the ed-

uating process, taken from the school, to eke out by their scanty earnings, the scanty dole of the father, and that in an enormous *per cent.* of the cases of those taking a full course, they are from the well-to-do independent class.

And as to libraries, it is to be feared that rigid rules and red-tape so abounds, that in too many cases those for whom free public libraries were professedly founded do not derive that benefit which they should, even if the weariness of brain and muscle in the severe strain of the present factory system did not tend to the mere stupor of animal repose as soon as relief from the strain comes. This much can be said, when libraries are only open for delivery during the hours of the day, as in the city where 2142 is located, and where Boards of Trustees, as too many do, exclude works not advocating their capitalistic views, then these institutions are not in harmony with the advance movement of the people, and efforts, where practicable, should be made to bring them into full sympathy with the people.

On the question of accidents, etc., considerable has been sent. 785 says that employers are careful to prevent all accidents; 2142 writes that the monotony of factory life does the most harm; 2229 states that in shoe and boot work one class of muscles are developed, throwing all others out of gear, to the real injury of the worker, and he might have added, that the fine, impalpable dust produced in some parts of the trade, entering into the lungs, must eventually be a source of great injury.

No. 2495 says accidents arise principally from carelessness.

No. 2540 writes that workers on metals suffer largely from lung and liver troubles, from lack of using all the muscles.

No. 2553 says accidents are attributable chiefly to carelessness.

No. 2576 writes that the principal injury is the loss of fingers.

As to the number of children employed, some say but few, if any, to their knowledge. This has hardly been investigated as its importance demands. Milford has looked into this to some extent, so has 785, Newburyport, also.

Lasters' Unions are reported in Milford and Newburyport, with many of various trades around Boston, and several that are waning, in Worcester.

Rent was advanced from ten to twenty per cent. in nearly every locality in the spring. There is no reduction as yet.

Cost of living slightly advanced, although at present a slight reduction in some important articles, writes Worcester.

Condition of trade in most departments is fair, but with considerable uncertainty as to the future. The iron manufacture, however, is exceedingly depressed; we have reports from Worcester, Milford, and North Andover. Building had an astonishing impetus in the spring, a rush that has not as yet, we should judge, subsided. The most disastrous report of unemployed labor comes from Worcester, although several shoe towns report some working on short time.

As to wages, it is thought that in some departments of boot and shoe labor, there has, thanks to the Lasters' Union and kindred organizations, been an advance over one year ago, while in certain sections of the State, farm labor is in greater demand, or was a few weeks ago, than has been known for years.

We come now to complaints of all kinds and these are various, one, 2540, that the *ritual* of the Order is too lengthy.

No. 2596, high prices for food.

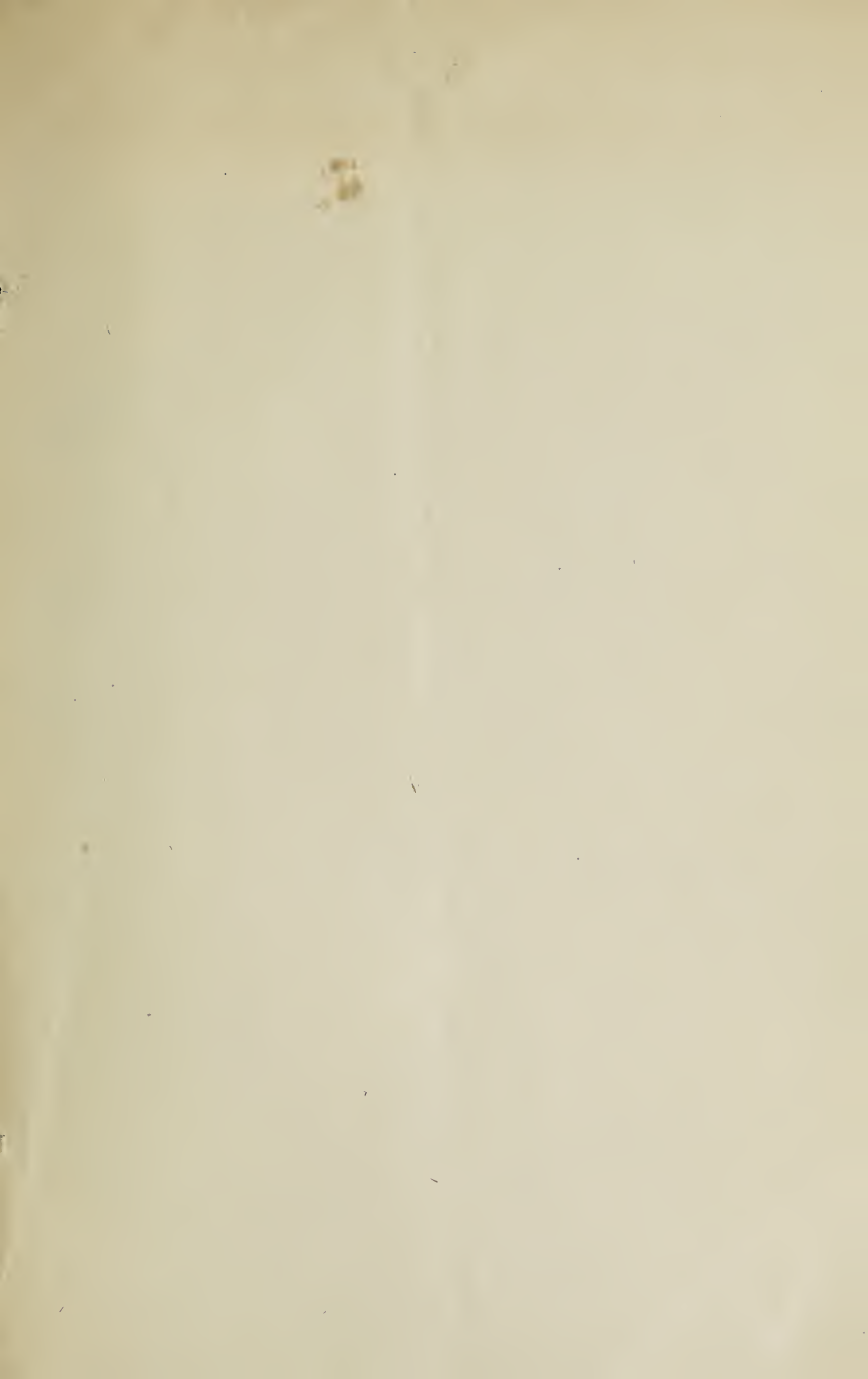
No. 785, dishonorable and criminal proposals to lady clerks in the fashionable stores of the city of Worcester; two cases cited.

No. 2227, two numerous to specify.

No. 2553, not wages enough and too long working time for the children. The general tenor of the reports has not the hopefulness which characterized them in April, while at the same time it is evident, that there is not an Assembly but that in a considerable, and several in a marked, degree, are doing good service for the Order and for humanity in general. This work is but a poor specimen of what should be done, and what may, when the organization of Labor is more widely extended, but it is presented to the delegates for what it is worth, and for action thereon.

Fraternally submitted,

HENRY M. NELSON, *D. Stat., District 30.*





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